An Exhortation to the People of God not to be discouraged in their Way, by the Scoffs and Contempt of wicked Men.

A

SERMON

Preach'd in

Mr. *Delamot*'s YARD,

AT

BLENDON-HALL near *BEXLEY*.

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SERMON

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There remaineth therefore a Reſt to the People of God.

WHEN we conſider the Perſecution they are expoſed to, who live righteouſly and godly in this preſent World, it is amazing to conſider, that the People of this Generation ſhould be ſo fond of a Name to live, while they are in Effect dead. The People of God are to expect nothing but Troubles and Trials while they are in this World; for common Experience is a Contradiction to my Text, that there is a Reſt to the People of God; but the Author of the *Hebrews*, when he was ſpeaking of this Reſt, did not mean that they ſhould have a Reſt here; no, he too well knew that the People of God, that them who would ſeek and ſerve the Lord Jeſus, muſt be deſpiſed, hated, ſcoffed, and ſlandered; but the Time was haſtening when they ſhall have a perfect Reſt, there is a Reſt laid up for them, and this is an Encouragement for you, my Brethren, to hold on, and hold out your Way rejoicing; for after Death there will be a Reſt forever; at Judg-

Judgment, you ſhall be taken up unto the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, and there you ſhall be forever exempted from Sin, you ſhall reſt from a Senſe of God's Diſpleaſure, and there, my Brethren, you ſhall be no more troubled with the Temptations of Satan. Now, my Brethren, you can ſet about nothing for the Glory of God, or for your own Soul's Welfare, but the Devil is diſſuading you from it, or diſtracting you in it, or diſcouraging you after it. Here we are ſcoffed and derided, as they of the World hated the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, ſo will they hate you alſo: But be not diſcouraged, tho' we are here the Scorn and Off-ſcouring of all Things; we are as a gazing Stock to Men and Angels. They put us out of their Synagogues, and caſt out our Name as Evil, they look on us as Perſons unfit for their Company. But at that Reſt which is prepared for you, my Brethren, we ſhall then be gazed at for our Glory, and they ſhut out of the Church of Saints, and ſeparated from us, whether they will or no, unleſs the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, by his free, rich, and ſovereign Grace, brings them unto himſelf.

The Letter-learned *Scribes* and *Phariſees* of this Day, look on us as Madmen and Enthuſiaſts, and tho' they make ſo much Noiſe about the Word *Enthuſiaſm*, it means no more than this, *One in God*, and what Chriſtian can ſay, he is not in God, and God in him?

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And if this is to be an Enthuſiaſt, God grant I may be more and more ſo; and if we being in Chriſt, and Chriſt in us, makes us Enthuſiaſts, I would to God we were all more and more Enthuſiaſts. They now think it ſtrange we run not with them into all Exceſs of Riot, and becauſe we will not go to the Devil's Diverſions with them, therefore they ſpeak Evil of us. We can't now go along the Street, my Brethren, but every one is pointing out his Finger with Scorn, and tell you, here comes another of his Followers; what! you are become one of his Diſciples too! But there is a Reſt which will be a Deliverance for you. Let none of theſe Things move you, for, my dear Brethren, tho' you are thus treated here, and tho' you muſt either loſe the World, and your outward Comforts, or elſe the Love of God, and your eternal Salvation; conſider, you ſhall in Heaven have no diſcouraging Company, nor any but what will be an Aſſiſtance unto you, you will have no Scoffer there, all will be ready to join with you in Heart and Voice in your everlaſting Joy and Praiſes. You will not be counted Enthuſiaſts, Madmen, and Rabble there. Therefore, let me this Morning exhort you to poſſeſs your Souls with Patience; account it Matter of Joy when you fall into Tribulation, God, in his own Time, my Brethren, will deliver us; do not let their hindering us from preaching in

the Church be of any Diſcouragement to us; do not ſhrink, and draw back, becauſe of Oppoſition; be not aſhamed of your Work or Maſter; hold faſt your Integrity. You muſt expect, my Brethren, to go thro' evil Report, and good Report; and do not fear the Violence of unreaſonable Men; let them hate you, and caſt you out for the Lord's Sake, but he ſhall appear to your Joy, and they ſhall be aſhamed. Therefore hold on, and hold out to the End.

I ſhall, my Brethren, this Morning, very briefly exhort you to Steadfaſtneſs and Patience, and to bear the Troubles of the World, only on this Conſideration, that if you are the People of God, there is a Reſt provided for you, which you ſhall certainly obtain.

I ſhall not ſpeak unto you, *Phariſees*, this Morning, nor to any, except it is to you who have experienced the Pangs of the New-Birth, or who are at preſent under them, who know what it is to love the Lord Jeſus in Sincerity and Truth; do not be diſcouraged, or think hard of the Ways of God, my dear Brethren, becauſe you are not loved by the Men of this World, if you were of the World it would love you; it would then be pleaſed with your Company, it would not thruſt you from a Tavern, or an Alehouſe, it would not diſlike you for ſinging the Songs of the Drunkard, for going to Plays, Balls, or their polite

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and faſhionable Entertainments; no, theſe the World like; but if you will ſing Hymns and Pſalms, go to hear what God will ſay unto your Souls, and ſpend your Time in reading, praying, and frequenting Societies, and religious Aſſemblies, then it is that they diſlike you, and thruſt you out of their Company, as unworthy thereof; let none of theſe Things move you, for the Reſt which Jeſus Chriſt hath prepared for you, is a Recompence for all you may meet with here.

It is the Fruit of the Blood of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt: O how will it fill our Souls with Love, to think that in the Streams of this Blood, we have got thro' the Violence of the World, the Snares of the Devil, the Seducements of ourſelves, the Curſe of the Law, the Wrath of God. O my dear Brethren, be not diſcouraged at the Treatment you meet with here, but let this be a Means to ſtir you up unto the Love of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, who hath prepared a Reſt for you. Can you conſider, my dear Brethren, what Chriſt has done and ſuffered for you, and have your Hearts ſtupified with vile and ſenſeleſs Pleaſures; that can hear of a panting, bleeding, dying Jeſus, and yet can be dull and unaffected; Was there any Sorrow like unto his Sorrow? and all this he underwent to ſave you, my Brethren; for you were vile and polluted with Filth, you were by Na-

ture half a Beaſt, and half a Devil, a motly Mixture of the Beaſt and Devil: Jeſus Chriſt dying upon the Croſs was to take away the Devil and Beaſt from your Heart, and prepare it for himſelf to dwell in. And, Oh my dear Brethren, think of the Love of this your Jeſus, and then will a little Reproach and Scorn move you, ſure it will not. I hope better Things of you, my Brethren, and Things that accompany Salvation. Now, my Brethren, we ſee his Picture wounded and dying, before our Eyes, but can we get it no nearer our Hearts than if we believed nothing we read.

O my Brethren, think with what Aſtoniſhment will you ſee the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, when he comes to take you into his Reſt. Now his Heart is open to us, and ours are ſhut unto him; then, then, my dear Brethren, his Heart ſhall be open, and ours ſhall be ſo too. O my Brethren, how will your Love be riſen? With what Raptures will you ſee the Lord Jeſus Chriſt? Therefore, undergo a few Reproaches here patiently, do not, my Brethren, revile them again. Let them ſay what they pleaſe of me, the Reproaches and Scorns, and Contempt of this World, will no Ways hurt me, but will turn upon their own Heads; therefore, do not, I beſeech you, anſwer them again, but leave it to the Lord who knows what is beſt for you and me.

me. And it is not the Place, my Brethren, that the Lord regards; a Field is as well pleaſing to him as Church-Walls, and he takes Notice of us, tho' in the Field; and if your Hearts are right, he will meet you; he has met us frequently in the Field, you know he has; then do not queſtion his Love, but he will meet you again and again. Then let me exhort all of you who have thus taſted the Lord to be gracious, to follow hard after him.

And now, let me ſpeak a Word unto you, who have not yet experienced the Love of Jeſus Chriſt unto your Souls, but are waiting for his Appearance; and I ſhall be but very ſhort, becauſe, my Brethren, I will not break in upon the Duties of the Day.

I ſhall ſpeak unto you a Word of Invitation, and that to wait ſtill on the Lord, do not forſake him, tho' he may not anſwer your Petitions at once or twice ſeeking unto him; do but hold on, do not leave ſeeking him, and you ſhall have an Anſwer of Peace; remember the poor Man who was lame, had laid at the Pool of *Betheſday* Thirty-eight Years before he obtained Relief, yet at laſt he found that it was worth waiting for, he obtained his Deſire.

And if, my Brethren, you are but zealous for the Lord, and ſeek unto Jeſus, that your Zeal may be according to Godlineſs; pray unto him for

for his Spirit, and you you ſhall certainly have an Anſwer of Peace; you ſhall find it is good to ſeek unto the Lord, and that he has given you his Spirit; then you are adopted into his Family, and are enabled to cry, *Abba Father.* O then, do not leave this Jeſus, but be continually waiting at Wiſdom's Gate, and then, my Brethren, you ſhall find all her Ways to be Ways of Pleaſantneſs, and all her Paths are Peace; then you ſhall find that it is worth waiting on the Lord Jeſus, that you have got his Spirit within you, and that all the Power of Men or Devils cannot make you forſake the Ways of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt.

No, if you do but once taſte of this Love, it will be ſo delightful unto you, that you will cry for more and more thereof, you will be as full as you can hold of this Love, and ſtill not be ſatisfied; you will deſire more and more of this Love of Jeſus, you will never be ſatisfied with Love, but will hunger and thirſt, and hunger and thirſt again, and never be ſatisfied till you come to that Reſt which is prepared for the People of God, where all Hungering and Thirſting will ceaſe, and will be turned into Songs, and Hallelujahs, and that for ever and ever.

And as many of you as deſign, my Brethren, to eat of the Body and Blood of our dying Lord, examine well yourſelves, leſt by eating and drinking unworthily, you eat and drink

drink Damnation unto yourſelves; remember there the dying Love of your dying Lord, and eat and drink in Commemoration thereof; do not let the World keep you from the partaking hereof, and when, my Brethren, you have eat of the Body, and drank of the Blood of your dying Lord, do not go away and run into the World, let the World ſee that you have been with Jeſus, do not give them room to ſpeak, they do that enough without Occaſion; but how would they rejoice if they had juſt Reaſon to diſlike us.

Look well, my dear Brethren, unto your Paths, that you do not ſlip aſide; remember that all your Faults are magnified, and all your little Slips are laid upon me; therefore, my Brethren, look well unto your Ways, your Words, your Actions, that they may be able to give the World the Lye, and let them ſee that we have had the Preſence of God with us, and that there has been Good done by Field-preaching.

Let me exhort you once more to conſider the Love of the Lord Jeſus Chriſt. O do not, do not forget his Love. Conſider, I beſeech you, my dear Brethren, how great it has been unto you, and do not ſlight this his Grace, the Riches, the Love, the Kindneſs of your dear Redeemer, the Lord Jeſus Chriſt, he it is that hath prepared this Reſt for you, he it is that laid down his Life for your Sakes, and

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what great Love was here, that while you were Enemies unto the Lord of Glory, he died for you, that he might redeem you from Hell, from Sin, from Wrath, that you might live with him, and reign with him, without End, and that you might adore the Lamb that died, and was buried, but is now riſen, and exalted, and ſit on the Right Hand of God the Father, when he ſhall come to judge all the World; and then, my Brethren, it will be ſeen whether we have deſerved the Uſage the World has gave us; then it will be known who are the true Followers of the Lord Jeſus, and who are Madmen and Fools; but, may it be determined in this World, that we and our Enemies may enter into that Reſt which God hath prepared for thoſe that love him.

Which God of his infinite Mercy grant, &c.

My Brethren, let not theſe few Words of Exhortation be forgot, but lay them up in your Hearts, remember they muſt be called over another Day. I ſhould have enlarged, but the Duties of the Day obliged me to forbear.

Now, to God the Father, Son, and Holy Ghoſt, be all Power, &c.

PRAYERS